B/ITW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ficant(s): Mark ERISMANN Conf. No. 7427

Group Art Unit: 2837

Appln. No. : 10/716,666

4321.A03

Examiner: S. Y. Hsieh

Filed: November 20, 2003

For : STRING TENSIONING DEVICE FOR A STRING INSTRUMENT

## COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on September 9, 2005 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicant submits that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

P24321.A03

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted

Mark ERISMANN

Neil F. Greenblum

Reg. No. 28,394 Robert W. Mueller

Reg. No. 35,043

November 17, 2005 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191